

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00
EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 HA-05 IO-13 /096 W
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O R 081558Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7111
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
COMNAVINTCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 29822

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: PROPOSED MASSERA MEETING WITH AFL-CIO

REF: CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES 6894

BACKGROUND SUMMARY: ON JULY 25, I WAS VISITED BY PERONIST EXILE HECTOR VILLALON WHO CLAIMED HE WAS PERON'S FORMER REPRESENTATIVE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WHILE PERON WAS IN SPAIN. HE LATER ASSUMED AN OFFICIAL CHARGE WITH THE RETURN OF JDP TO ARGENTINA. WITH POST-PERON DEVELOPMENTS IN ARGENTINA, HE LEFT AND CONTINUES TO COORDINATE PERONIST ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE, NAMELY, MADRID-PARIS CAPITALS. HIS PURPOSE FOR MEETING WAS COUCHED IN TERMS OF HOPING THAT I COULD ASSIST HIM AND THE NEW FORCES IN ARGENTINA POLITICS TO REACH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS IN UNDERSTANDING A DEVELOPING TREND FOR GREATER LIBERAL

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STANCE ON ARGENTINE ISSUES. HE PROCLAIMED SOON-TO-RETIRE ADMIRAL MASSERA AS THE PERSON THE PERONISTAS COULD STRIKE A DEAL WITH IN A BID FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. WHILE HE EMPHASIZED NO LOVE FOR MASSERA, NONETHELESS HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MASSERA HAS THE RIGHT JUNTA CONNECTIONS (WHICH INCLUDE ARMY GENERAL VIOLA) AND COUPLED WITH SUPPORT FROM A COALITION

OF ARGENTINE DEMOCRATIC FACTIONS, I.E., TRADE UNIONS, BUSINESS SECTOR, ETC., HE COULD EMERGE AS A LEADER WHO COULD DEAL WITH RESTORING ARGENTINA'S TARNISHED IMAGE IN WORLD COMMUNITY BY BRINGING ABOUT REFORMS, CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT CONTROL, RESTORING TRADE UNION RIGHTS AND EVOKING A NEW HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE.

1. VILLALON MENTIONED THAT A RECENT VISIT BY MASSERA TO PARIS HAD BEEN USED TO SET IN MOTION THE AFORE-MENTIONED PLANS AND VIILALON WAS ASKED TO COORDINATE EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES WITH EXILED PERONISTS. ACCORDING TO VILLALON, MASSERA CONFESSED TO HIM THAT THE KIDNAPPING OF FRENCH FIAT PRESIDENT REVELLI BEAUMONT HAD BEEN A SET-UP BY AAA AGENTS TO CRIMINALLY IMPLICATE VILLALON AND HIS PARIS COLLEAGUES. AS A GESTURE OF HIS SINCERITY, MASSERA WOULD INTERVENE WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS TO CLEAR VILLAION AND ASSOCIATES OF CHARGES. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EXILE HECTOR ARISTY IS ALSO IMPLICATED IN SAME CASE. MASSERA WOULD ASSIGN DR. SOBRINO ARANDA AS A LIAISON BETWEEN VILLALON AND B.A. GROUP. SOBRINO ARANDA IS IN PARIS OR MADRID ON AVERAGE OF ONCE A MONTH ON CONSULTATIONS WITH VILLALON. IN MADRID HE MEETS WITH EXILED CGT GENERAL SECRETARY CASILDO HERRERAS. I LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND MADE NO COMMITMENTS TO VILLALON.

2. AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 5 I WAS CONTACTED BY VILLALON
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AND HE BROUGHT WITH HIM A PERSON WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS CASTELLANO. MR. CASTELLANO WAS PRESENT AT THE D.R. PRESIDENT GUZMAN'S INAUGURATION AND EXPRESSED THE SUGGESTION OF AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE ANDY MCCLELLAN TO CONTACT ME IN PARIS. CASTELLANO EXPLAINED THAT SOBRINO ARANDA AND MEATWORKERS UNION LEADER ELEUTERIO CARDOSO WOULD BE IN PARIS TO DISCUSS MASSERA PLAN WITH IRVING BROWN AND MYSELF. IT WAS HOPED THAT I COULD ARRANGE TO SEE THEM ON FRIDAY SEPT. 8.

3. VILLALON WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THERE IS GREAT URGENCY IN MOVING THE PLAN FOR MASSERA TO VISIT THE U.S. TO MEET KEY ADMINISTRATION AND LABOR OFFICIALS. MOREOVER, THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISSUADE MASSERA NOT TO TAKE UP INVITATION BY FORMER SEC. KISSINGER FOR A MEETING IN THAT IT WOULD BE A TACTICAL ERROR.

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4. VILLALON SAID THAT WITH U.S. CUT-OFF OF MILITARY AID TO ARGENTINA, THE JUNTA WAS PREPARING A VISIT BY VIDELA TO THE USSR. THIS CREATES A MAJOR CONCERN TO THE MASSERA GROUP AND THEY ARE COUNTERING SUCH A JUNTA MOVE BY ARRANGING IN THE FUTURE A VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA BY MASSERA. BEFORE ANYTHING, HOWEVER, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THEY MEET WITH U.S. OFFICIALS TO EXPLAIN THEIR PLAN.

5. THE STUMBLING BLOCK IN THIS WHOLE PLAN IS THE INABILITY FOR THEM TO MEET WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR CASTRO. IT WAS HOPED THAT I COULD CONVINCE AMB. CASTRO AND OTHER U.S. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS OF THE URGENCY OF ESTABLISHING EARLY TALKS.

6. I WILL MEET AS PER SCHEDULED WITH ARANDA-CARDOSO TEAM TO LEARN MORE OF PLAN AND REPORT ACCORDINGLY. AS BEFORE, I WILL REMAIN NON-COMMITAL AND CONTINUE GUARDED STANCE. I WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM

DEPARTMENT. TORRES

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